

① Attachment 4

Sent by: Chris
McEwan/MOH

15/06/2015
12:26 p.m.

To:
cc:
Mackie/MOH@MOH,
bcc:

Subject:
plastic surgeon

Katherine Beckett/MOH@MOH,
Ailsa Jacobson/MOH@MOH, Don

Re: re gender reassignment training for a

I have never seen that letter, the communication around the possibility of a sponsored fellowship came from Sally Langley who is President of NZAPS. On Friday I had a telephone conversation with **Angela Kenealy** | Press Secretary | Office of the Hon Dr Jonathan Coleman about the fact that this letter had come in, but the who and where were not discussed. I reiterated to Angela that we need to do some basic service sustainability work prior to suggesting that the gender reassignment surgery service was viable (numbers, funding, multi-disciplinary support etc). Later on Friday I had a very productive talk with a kiwi who trained in the US as a plastic surgeon and who has experience with transgender surgery (although he emphasised he is not a specialist in it!) who could provide collegial support and help develop and support the network of clinicians providing the support surgery etc. His issue is he needs one year of supervised practice to gain his vocational registration in NZ but he would be too good an asset to lose. This doesn't help find the letter but the context is becoming defined?
Chris

Mr Christopher McEwan

Clinical Leader – Prioritisation, Electives & National Services, DHB Performance
National Health Board, Ministry of Health, 1, The Terrace, P.O Box 5013, Wellington 6145, NZ
Mobile: 021 846 823; <http://www.moh.govt.nz>
mailto:Chris_McEwan@moh.govt.nz

From: Katherine Beckett/MOH
To: Chris McEwan/MOH@MOH, Ailsa Jacobson/MOH@MOH, Don Mackie/MOH@MOH,
Date: 15/06/2015 11:34 a.m.
Subject: re gender reassignment training for a plastic surgeon

Good Morning Chris and Ailsa

Michael in the Minister's office is looking for a letter that came to the Ministry "Letter from someone called Chris somebody at counties re gender reassignment training for a plastic surgeon". Does this ring a bell with either of you?

I may have sent this on to either of you and failed to make a copy?

I found the correspondence below but I don't think this is what Michael is after.

Katherine Beckett
Senior Executive Assistant
Clinical Leadership, Protection & Regulation
Ministry of Health
DDI: 04 496 2225

<http://www.moh.govt.nz>
mailto:Katherine_Beckett@moh.govt.nz

----- Forwarded by Katherine Beckett/MOH on 15/06/2015 10:30 a.m. -----

From: Chris McEwan/MOH
To: Ailsa Jacobson/MOH@MOH,
Cc: Don Mackie/MOH@MOH
Date: 08/06/2015 04:28 p.m.
Subject: Re: Fw: Fellowship for Gender Reassignment Surgery

Ailsa,

I have used my contacts in HWNZ (Tony Crane) to ask about what existing mechanisms could should be explored to assist this. His opinion is of course preliminary and off the cuff but there is an Advanced Training Fellowship process for circumstances such as these and he gave an example of a fairly similar circumstance involving provision of emergency obstetric surgery in West Coast. This would need the support around numbers and sustainability etc, a DHB of service etc and support network as we had already identified. I believe strongly that as much as possible this should be kept within existing processes rather than making an overly special case (acknowledging need and desirability of the service but making sure we don't set a precedent).

I am around tomorrow with free time from 11 am if you wish to discuss this further.

Chris

Mr Christopher McEwan

Clinical Leader – Prioritisation, Electives & National Services, DHB Performance
National Health Board, Ministry of Health, 1, The Terrace, P O Box 5013, Wellington 6145, NZ
Mobile: 021 846 823; <http://www.moh.govt.nz>
mailto:Chris_McEwan@moh.govt.nz

From: Ailsa Jacobson/MOH
To: Chris McEwan/MOH@MOH, Don Mackie/MOH@MOH,
Date: 27/05/2015 01:09 p.m.
Subject: Fw: Fellowship for Gender Reassignment Surgery

Please see below a very timely communication. Response?

Ailsa Jacobson
Senior Advisor
CVD Diabetes Long Term Conditions
Personal Health Service Improvement
Sector Capability and Implementation
Ministry of Health
DDI: 04 496 2496

Available: Tuesday morning. Wednesday Thursday and Friday

<http://www.moh.govt.nz>
mailto:Ailsa_Jacobson@moh.govt.nz

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Sent by: Ruth
Anderson/MOH

22/06/2015
12:51 p.m.

To: Don Mackie/MOH@MOH,
cc: Ailsa Jacobson/MOH@MOH, Chris McEwan/MOH@MOH, Clare
Perry/MOH@MOH, Michael Hundleby/MOH@MOH, Graeme
Benny/MOH@MOH,
bcc:

Subject: Re: Gender reassignment

Don, one potential option here may be the Advanced Training Fellowship. This will not fund all cost elements, and I would doubt that the HWNZ Board would see this as urgent relative to other priorities, but it is an option. Details are on the HWNZ website. On the matter of priorities, this would be about the Ministry (CMO and Director of Mental Health) arguing this I think.

Ruth

Dr Ruth Anderson | Group Manager | Health Workforce New Zealand |
DDI: 04 816 4404 | Mo: 021 910 605



ruth_anderson@moh.govt.nz
<http://www.health.govt.nz>

From: Don Mackie/MOH
To: Ailsa Jacobson/MOH@MOH, Chris McEwan/MOH@MOH, Michael Hundleby/MOH@MOH,
Cc: Ruth Anderson/MOH@MOH, Clare Perry/MOH@MOH
Date: 22/06/2015 10:28 a.m.
Subject: Gender reassignment

Two bits to this.

1. At select committee MoH was asked to start scoping up the supply/demand/clinical sustainability elements of gender reassignment surgery in New Zealand. This follows the retirement of Peter Walker in Christchurch who was performing some of this, male to female. Female to male has remained something that is purchased and performed overseas. As you know this is currently under high cost treatment pool with limited numbers funded and a growing waiting list which was of interest to the committee. So we need to think about how this evaluation is going to be done. I don't recall a timeframe from the committee but may be in their minutes.

2. I have been contacted by John Keneally, a plastic surgeon at Counties Manukau. They have a plastic surgery trainee who is interested in the genito-urinary field and they have been thinking about a suitable one year fellowship that could do. This would be in Belgium (one of the places we have used for female to male surgery), Thailand and the US. On completion would be able to replace Peter and also have skills in the wider range of surgery in the genito-urinary area. They have had a some preliminary discussions with Belgian and Thai surgeons and also worked closely with other Auckland regional DHBs and specialties there. Other DHBs perform other parts of the surgery, notably breast routinely, though I am not clear if it is consistent. He told me they successfully ran a similar fellowship for Jonathan Heather who has returned to take up burns surgery. There was a hunt for funding of the fellowship in the conversation.

This has popped up before, I discussed with Murray Begley a few years ago. I pointed out that we had to do some scoping work and the issue of public funding was far from resolved. He thought that there would still be advantages if a NZ surgeon could do the surgery in the private sector, particularly for post-op care and follow up. I think it would be good to have a conversation about both elements above. Happy to hear other views.

Dr Don Mackie
Chief Medical Officer
Clinical Leadership, Protection & Regulation
Ministry of Health

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Re: Fw: Fellowship for Gender Reassignment Surgery

Margareth Attwood to: David St George

22/04/2016
01:54 p.m.

Hi David, there is currently no HWNZ funding for this.

M

Margareth Attwood

Acting Director | Health Workforce New Zealand | National Health Board | Ministry of Health | DDI: 04 816 4480 Mob: 021 716 793



mailto:Margareth_Attwood@moh.govt.nz

From: David St George/MOH
To: Margareth Attwood/MOH@MOH,
Date: 21/04/2016 03:13 p.m.
Subject: Fw: Fellowship for Gender Reassignment Surgery

Hi Margareth,

The plastic surgeons are on to this issue again. If there is unlikely to be any HWNZ funding for a Fellowship in Gender Reassignment Surgery, is it worth pursuing any discussion about it?

Cheers,

David

Dr David St George
Chief Advisor
Office of the Chief Medical Officer
Ministry of Health
Wellington
New Zealand

DDI: 04 496 2592
Mobile: 021 222 0804
<http://www.health.govt.nz>
mailto:David_StGeorge@moh.govt.nz

----- Forwarded by David St George/MOH on 21/04/2016 03:11 p.m. -----

From: Clare Perry/MOH
To: David St George/MOH@MOH, Julie Marshall/MOH@MOH,
Cc: Andrew Simpson/MOH@MOH
Date: 21/04/2016 11:08 a.m.
Subject: Fw: Fellowship for Gender Reassignment Surgery

Julie/David - this relates to the email I sent you on 7 April where the response was to be assigned to David. Hopefully it's all in hand.

David - how do you want to respond to Jane on her latest email?

Clare Perry

Manager, Electives & National Services
Service Commissioning
Ministry of Health, 1 The Terrace, P O Box 5013, Wellington 6145, NZ
DDI: 04 496 2219, Mobile: 027 278 4106; <http://www.moh.govt.nz>
[mailto: Clare_Perry@moh.govt.nz](mailto:Clare_Perry@moh.govt.nz)

----- Forwarded by Clare Perry/MOH on 21/04/2016 11:05 a.m. -----

From: Clare Perry/MOH
To: Clare Perry/MOH@MOH,
Date: 21/04/2016 10:29 a.m.
Subject: Fellowship for Gender Reassignment Surgery
Sent by: Hettie Barnard

Jane Doherty has phoned and left a message saying that she would like to have a response to her query regarding gender reassignment but to date has not received anything from anyone yet. She is giving the Ministry a heads-up that the Media is getting interested in this issue.

Ministry of Health, 1 The Terrace, P O Box 5013, Wellington 6145, NZ
DDI: 04 496 2219, Mobile: 027 278 4106; <http://www.moh.govt.nz>
[mailto: Clare_Perry@moh.govt.nz](mailto:Clare_Perry@moh.govt.nz)

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From: David St George/MOH
To: Margareth Attwood/MOH@MOH,
Date: 12/04/2016 02:56 p.m.
Subject: Fw: For docktrak please

Hi Margareth,

At the bottom of the email chain below is a letter from the NZ Association of Plastic Surgeons (written in May 2015) proposing that a Fellowship in Gender Reassignment Surgery is established. There was one plastic surgeon who previously undertook this surgery (Peter Walker - in the private sector only) but he retired at the end of 2014. I have been asked to pick this issue up because I now manage the High Cost Treatment Pool, which funds a small amount of gender reassignment surgery overseas.

There are some problems with this proposal, but I was wondering who I should talk to in HWNZ about this. Is it you, or someone else in your team?

Regards,

David

Dr David St George
Chief Advisor
Office of the Chief Medical Officer
Ministry of Health
Wellington
New Zealand

DDI: 04 496 2592
Mobile: 021 222 0804
<http://www.health.govt.nz>
mailto:David_StGeorge@moh.govt.nz

From: Clare Perry/MOH
To: Julie Marshall/MOH@MOH,
Cc: David St George/MOH@MOH, Andrew Simpson/MOH@MOH
Date: 07/04/2016 04:59 p.m.
Subject: For docktrak please

Hi Julie

I just spoke to Andy S on this and he suggests it is assigned to David St George for a response. David can in turn talk to Margareth/HWNZ if appropriate.

Could you please docktrak and assign to David, perhaps a due date in a couple of weeks?

David - fyi

Many thanks all

Clare Perry
Manager, Electives & National Services
Service Commissioning